

It is important to bear in mind that NATO is a defensive alliance and that the forces assigned to it in the European theatre are for defensive purposes. The more effective these forces are, the more credible is the deterrent to any aggression in that area.

### NORAD

In the fall of 1957, the North American Air Defence Command came into being. It is charged with the responsibility of protecting, in so far as that is possible, the North American land mass from attack by air. The headquarters of this command is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The commander-in-chief is U.S. General John K. Gerhart, and the deputy commander-in-chief is Canadian Air Marshal Roy Slemmon.

To assist this command in its function, information is funnelled into its headquarters from a network of warning lines and control stations. These include the Pinetree radar system, roughly along the Canada-U.S. border, the Mid-Canada Line approximately along the 55th parallel, the Distant Early Warning Line along the northern periphery of the continent and the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, with stations in Alaska and Greenland and under construction in England.

These systems have been altered and augmented from time to time in accordance with changing requirements and circumstances. For example, it was agreed in 1959 that seven additional heavy radars should be constructed in Canada as reinforcement for the Pinetree Line. A number of exposed Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) combat centres located on U.S. Strategic Air Command bases and considered redundant are being abandoned. A new hardened SAGE centre near North Bay is just nearing completion. Additional changes are contemplated.

The air threat to North America consists of long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM's), submarine or ship-launched intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBM's), and manned bombers. At the moment there is no protection against ballistic missiles. The United States has under development an anti-missile missile known as the "Nike-Zeus", but no decision has been taken to put it into operational service largely because of the considerable cost involved. Development is continuing of potentially more effective means of anti-missile protection.

At this moment, the active air defence is limited to the anti-bomber field, and a considerable effort is expended in this direction. If members of the Committee recall statements I made when in opposition, you may wonder why I now support the use of some of our resources for this purpose. The opinions I expressed during the last few years were based on knowledge of the threat made available to us at that time -- 1959. The estimates have subsequently turned out to be incorrect. The rate of Soviet missile production anticipated at that time has not materialized.